

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-10

AID-20 CEA-02 EA-11 FRB-02 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 DRC-01 /216 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5955

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH REQUEST EC ASSISTANCE IN OIL CRISIS

REF: A) THE HAGUE 4758

B) THE HAGUE 4759 (NOTAL)

C) THE HAGUE 4778 (NOTAL)

D) BONN 15707 (NOTAL)

E) OECD PARIS 28036 (NOTAL)

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1. SUMMARY. THE NETHERLANDS HAS NOW BROUGHT ITS OIL CRISIS

TO THE EC AND HAS ASKED FOR COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC COMMISSION RECEIVED A TELEX ON OCTOBER 30 FROM THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WHICH OUTLINED A THREE-POINT PROGRAM TO MEET THE CRITICAL SITUATION CAUSED BY THE EMBARGO OF ARAB OIL TO THE NETHERLANDS.

3. THE PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE DUTCH IS:

A) INTERNAL MEASURES. THE DUTCH HAVE INSTITUTED MEASURES TO RESTRICT COMSUMPTION IN THE NETHERLANDS, INCLUDING A BAN ON SUNDAY PLEASURE DRIVING (ALREADY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED) AND APPEALS TO THE DUTCH POPULATION TO TAKE VARIOUS CONSERVATION MEASURES.

B) COMMISSION ACTIONS. THE NETHERLANDS ASK THE EC COMMISSION TO TAKE THREE SPECIFIC STEPS. FIRST, THE COMMISSION WAS REQUESTED TO APPROVE DUTCH LIMITATION OF EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, INCLUDING EXPORTS TO OTHER MEMBER STATES. (BECAUSE SUCH A RESTRICTION ON FREE CIRCULATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE TREATY OF ROME AND COMMUNITY REGULATIONS, SPECIFIC COMMUNITY APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.) SECONDLY, THE DUTCH ASKED THE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF OIL CONSERVATION MEASURES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ALL EC MEMBER STATES. THIRD, THE DUTCH ASKED THAT THE COMMISSION STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF MEMBER STATES SHARING OIL SUPPLIES.

C) COUNCIL ACTION. THE DUTCH REQUESTED FINALLY THAT THE COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) URGENTLY CONSIDER THE NETHERLANDS' OIL SITUATION AT ITS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 6. THE DUTCH EMPHASIZED THE URGENCY OF THEIR REQUEST BY POINTING TO THE EXPECTED DEFICIT WHICH WILL BE CAUSED BY THE EMBARGO; THE ANNOUNCED EMBARGO WILL CAUSE A DROP OF 17 PERCENT FOR THE COMMUNITY AND 65 PERCENT FOR THE NETHERLANDS OF THE ANTICIPATED DELIVERIES OF CRUDE OIL TO ROTTERDAM.

4. WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE COMMISSION HELD AN EMERGENCY MEETING LATE IN THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 30 (CHAIRIED BY BRONDEL IN SPAAK'S ABSENCE) TO DISCUSS THE DUTCH REQUEST AND TO PREPARE FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS ON OCTOBER 31. THIS MEETING PREPARED A PAPER FOR THE COMMISSIONERS' CONSIDERATION WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE COMMISSION PROPOSE TO THE COUNCIL FOR DECISION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT ITS MEETING NEXT WEEK, THAT THE COMMUNITY ADOPT A COMMON EXPORT POLICY, A COMMON POSITION ON THE SHARING OF CRUDE OIL, AND A COMMON POSITION TO BE TAKEN IN FUTURE OECD MEETINGS REGARDING OIL. RE THE SECOND POINT, THE GROUP SUGGESTED TO THE COMMISSIONERS THAT THE POOLING OF OIL SUPPLIES COULD BE DONE ON THE BASIS OF THE 1956 OECD AGREEMENT (REFERENCE WAS MADE SPECIFICALLY TO THE MEETINGS WHICH OECD OIL COMMITTEE CHARIMAN WANSINK WILL BE HAVING IN LONDON THIS WEEK).

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